



Fachhochschule für  
Interkulturelle Theologie  
Hermannsburg

## INFORMATION PACKAGE

for Students and prospective Students of  
**Fachhochschule für Interkulturelle Theologie Hermannsburg**



Compiled by

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in Cooperation with

Diversity Team & FIT Staff Members

Dear student,

Welcome to the Fachhochschule für Interkulturelle Theologie Hermannsburg (FIT). It is great that you are studying here!

This brochure is intended to give you some information on the FIT, its programmes, schedules, cooperation partners – including the University of Göttingen – and the environment in Hermannsburg. We hope it will be helpful to prepare your stay. Please let us know if you have any other questions; we will try to help as much as we can. We are grateful for any input you can provide and do look forward to a good and successful interaction.

With every good wish for your studies at the FIT,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Richebächer

PRINCIPAL

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# Essential Background Information

## 1. INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

### (a) **About FIT**

The University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology Hermannsburg (FIT) was founded and accredited in 2012. It is the successor of the Mission Seminary, which was founded in 1849. The Seminary prepared theologians and missionaries for overseas service for more than 150 years.

The FIT is the academic institution of the Evangelical-Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony (ELM). The ELM is a foundation financed by the Evangelical-Lutheran Churches of Hanover, Brunswick and Schaumburg-Lippe.

The academic principles of freedom of research and teaching are guaranteed, and the FIT has its own constitution and regulations.

The mission statement of FIT is:

- to establish a dialogue between critical Protestantism and Lutheran theologies and Pentecostal and Charismatic movements
- to become a place where Protestant theological teaching in Germany meets the different theologies of Africa, Asia and Latin America
- and to contribute to cross-cultural understanding and integration.

The FIT offers the [B.A. programmes](#)

- **Intercultural Theology, Migration, and Global Cooperation** (ITMGC)
- and **Intercultural Theology and Global Diaconia** (ITDG).

Besides, the [M.A. programme "Intercultural Theology"](#) is conducted in cooperation with the University of Göttingen.

### (b) **Cooperation Partners and Other Institutions of Interest**

#### Faculty of Theology, University of Göttingen

Especially in the M.A. programme „Intercultural Theology“, but also in other academic initiatives, the FIT cooperates with the Faculty of Theology at the University of Göttingen. The students of the Master programme are enlisted in Göttingen, but are encouraged to spend the first year in Hermannsburg.

The University of Göttingen was founded by Georg II, King of Great Britain and Elector of Hanover, in 1737; his name became its name – Georgia Augusta. He founded

one of the first institutions of higher education in Germany in which Faculties were on an equal footing rather than subordinate to an all-powerful Faculty of Theology. The University was created in the spirit of the Enlightenment.

The Enlightenment movement had a decisive influence also upon the Faculty of Theology which, according to the custom of the time, was the first among the faculties in Göttingen. In the 18th and 19th centuries the Faculty was marked by a pragmatic and historical approach to the disciplines.

During the late 19th and 20th centuries, the Faculty in Göttingen pioneered important impulses within theology. The concept of Religionswissenschaft (religious studies), for example, was coined by the Faculty during this time. This concept, like the School of the History of Religions, decisively determined the profile of the Faculty for a time. Dialectical theology has also been greatly influenced by Göttingen through the work of theologians like K. Barth, during the 1920's, and F. Gogarten in the 1930's.

[www.uni-goettingen.de/en/history-of-the-university---an-overview/90607.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/history-of-the-university---an-overview/90607.html)

[www.uni-goettingen.de/de/theologische-fakultaet/356435.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/theologische-fakultaet/356435.html)

#### Academy of Mission at the University of Hamburg

The Academy of Mission at the University of Hamburg and the FIT are dedicated to intercultural theological education and developmental studies; both work with migrant communities. Several areas of cooperation between these two institutions have been established and the courses and conferences offered at Academy of Mission might be of interest for FIT students. The following description is taken from the website of the Academy of Mission

( [www.missionsakademie.de/en/index.php](http://www.missionsakademie.de/en/index.php) ):

Our institution contributes to the development of intercultural education in the field of Protestant theology. Our team consists of four heads of study who supervise doctoral dissertations by students from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania.

Besides the academic work with the stipend holders, the Academy of Mission is a place where international conferences are being held. Conferences may be organized by our team or by groups renting our facilities.

In addition, the Academy of Mission is considered a laboratory of ecumenical theology. We offer a space for discussing subjects relevant for the Protestant world. In particular, we closely observe the surprising dynamics of the unfolding of charismatic and evangelical movements in global and local perspectives. Other subjects of special interest to us, are globalization, and questions of justice and peace. Hamburg, as economic center with a long standing, global commercial history, represents a unique environment where the implications and consequences of globalization can be perceived and studied.

Pastors and leaders of African migrant churches have discovered the Academy of Mission as a place for theological formation where diverse perspectives on the world, on religion, faith and theology can be shared in an atmosphere of utmost respect. A good number of African pastors residing in Germany have participated in the ATTiG program (African Theological Training in Germany) which aims at deepening theological understanding by insisting on the contextuality of all forms of theology, including classical western theology.

The Academy of Mission was installed in the 1950ies as a place for the theological formation of missionaries to be sent out into the "mission fields". Due to beginning processes of decolonization in Africa however, the function of the Academy of Mission was quickly changed. Ever since it has become a theological institution dedicated to theological education in a global perspective."

### International Partner Institutions

The FIT is part of the Network of Theology and Religious Studies which also includes:

- Institut Luthérien de Théologie, Meiganga / Kamerun
- Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, Addis Abeba / Äthiopien
- Lutheran Graduate School of Theology, Fianarantsoa / Madagaskar
- MHS School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger/ Norway
- Lutheran Theological Institute / University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg / South Africa
- Religious Studies, Makerere University, Kampala / Uganda

The University of Göttingen also has a wide network of Partner Institutions:

- Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai / India
- Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore / India
- St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam Kerala / India
- Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam Kerala / India
- University of Pune / India
- Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, Addis Ababa / Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Addis Ababa / Ethiopia
- The Graduate School of Theology, Ewha Womans University Seoul / South Korea
- Osaka University, Osaka / Japan
- Trinity Theological Seminary Legon, Accra / Ghana
- Near East School of Theology, Beirut / Lebanon
- Yerevan State University, Faculty of Theology, Yerevan / Armenia
- University of Tartu / Estonia



## 2. STAFF

### (a) Academic Staff

- Prof. Dr. Wilhelm **Richebächer**; Systematic Theology in Intercultural Perspective,  
Tel.: 05052 48101-20, [w.richebaecher@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:w.richebaecher@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- Prof. Dr. Andreas **Kunz-Lübcke**; Biblical Hermeneutics in Intercultural Perspective, Tel.: 05052 48101-32, [a.kunz-luebcke@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:a.kunz-luebcke@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- Prof. Dr. Drea **Fröchtling**; Practical Theology & Diakonia in Intercultural Perspective, Tel.: 05052 48101-33, [a.froechtling@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:a.froechtling@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- Prof. Dr. Erna **Zonne-Gätjens**; Social Work in Intercultural Perspective, Tel.: 05052 48101-34, [e.zonne@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:e.zonne@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- Prof. Dr. Ulrike **Schröder**; Religious Studies and Interreligious Dialogue, Tel.: 05052 48101-35, [u.schroeder@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:u.schroeder@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- Prof. Dr. Gabriele **Beckmann**; Development Studies, Tel.: 05052 48101-36, [g.beckmann@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:g.beckmann@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- Dr. Moritz **Fischer**; World Christianities and Mission History  
Tel.: 05052 48101-30; [m.fischer@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:m.fischer@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- Harald **Faber**; Language Courses,  
Tel.: 05052 48101-40, [h.faber@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:h.faber@fh-hermannsburg.de)

### (b) Honorary Professors, Lecturers and Research Fellows

- Honorary professor Rev. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dietrich **Werner**;  
mission theology and ecumenical science, [dietrich.werner@brot-fuer-die-welt.de](mailto:dietrich.werner@brot-fuer-die-welt.de)
- Private lecturer Frederek **Freckmann**; Asylum and immigration law,  
[kanzlei@orrae.de](mailto:kanzlei@orrae.de)
- Assistant lecturer Dr. Beate **Wagner**; Human rights, with particular reference  
to economic, social and cultural rights
- Assistant lecturer Karin **Döhne**; Project Management / Development Studies

(c) **Non-Academic Staff**

- **Erich Fiebig:** [chief executive officer](#), responsible for the FIT administration; office: "House 1"; Tel.: 05052 48101-23, [e.fiebig@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:e.fiebig@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- **Dietlinde Rückert:** secretary for administrative matters; office: "House I"; Tel.: 05052 48101-0, [office@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:office@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- **Birgit Flader:** administrative assistant for student affairs; office: "House 1"; Tel.: 05052 48101-44, [b.flader@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:b.flader@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- **Linda Braun:** secretary for finance and administration; office: "House 1"; Tel.: 05052 48101-21, [l.braun@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:l.braun@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- **Anja Engelke:** librarian; office: Library, Tel.: 05052 48101-90, [a.engelke@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:a.engelke@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- **Dorothea Müller:** public relations and event management; office: "House 1"; Tel.: 05052 48101-43, [d.mueller@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:d.mueller@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- **Horst Hinken:** house-keeping; office: "House 1"; Tel.: 05052 48101-25, [h.hinken@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:h.hinken@fh-hermannsburg.de)
- **Manfred Hilmer:** in charge of residence facilities; Tel.: 0172 5479130
- **Heike Nordhaus, Edyta Bertram & Kerstin Kutnik:** Maintenance/Cleaning Assistants, [hauswirtschaft@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:hauswirtschaft@fh-hermannsburg.de)

(d) **Professors & Lecturers in Göttingen involved in the MA programme**

- Dr. Cornelia **Schlarb** – Coordinator M.A. programme M.A. ICT
- Prof. Dr. Bernd **Schröder**, Decan – Practical Theology
- Prof. Dr. Andreas **Grünschloß** – Religious Studies
- PD Dr. Fritz **Heinrich** – Religious Studies
- Prof. Dr. Jan **Hermelink** – Practical Theology
- Prof. Dr. Thomas **Kaufmann** – Church History
- Frau Elena **Romashko** – Theories of Religion
- Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Martin **Tamcke** – Intercultural Hermeneutics
- Herr Michael **Wandusim** – New Testament
- Prof. Dr. Florian **Wilk** – New Testament

### 3. IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

#### **Winter term 2019/2020**

- Administrative start of term: 01.10.2019
- Administrative end of term: 31.03.2020
- Begin of classes: 14.10.2019
- End of classes: 21.02.2020

Christmas Holidays: 21.12.2019 - 05.01.2020

Holidays: 03.10., 31.10., 25.12.-26.12.2019, 01.01.2020

#### **Summer term 2020**

- Administrative start of term: 01.04.2020
- Administrative end of term: 30.09.2020
- Begin of classes:
  - ITDG 2 and ITMGC 2: 01.04.2020
  - all other courses: 06.04.2020
- End of classes: 24.07.2020

Holidays: 10.04., 13.04., 01.05., 21.05., 01.06.2020

Please note:

The examination repetition week counts already as regular week in terms of compulsory presence time on campus. Students are required to make themselves available for the repetition of written and oral examinations.

In case you have to repeat an examination, please consult your supervisor immediately after you received your results in order to clarify the examination date. Examinations have to be repeated always in the next upcoming repetition week.

Regulations for MA ITC may vary from this rule depending on the module and the regulations in Göttingen.

## 4. STUDENT SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT FIT

### (a) **Administrative matters, housing, board**

The secretaries, Ms. Dietlinde Rückert and Ms. Linda Braun as well as administrative assistant for student affairs Ms. Birgit Flader will help you in administrative matters. Their offices are in the main house ("House I").

Their email is: [office@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:office@fh-hermannsburg.de).

Upon arrival, matters with regard to housing, meals and accommodation should be directed to

- Mr. Horst Hinken, who is responsible for house-keeping,
- or Mr. Manfred Hilmer, our care taker.

They are assisted in by Ms. Heike Nordhaus Ms. Edyta Bertram and Ms. Kerstin Kutnik (maintenance/cleaning).

### (b) **Library**

Centrally located on the campus grounds, the FIT library holds about 80,000 volumes, including particularly literature in the fields of Intercultural Theology, Mission Studies, History of Christianity, Religious and Biblical Studies, Migration, Social Work and Development Work.

The library is accessible to students, faculty and staff of FIT 24/7.

Further more the FIT Homepage provides extensive online ressearch tools.

Books which are not available in the library can be ordered via inter-library loan free of charge since our library is part of the national interlibrary-loan network. There are no charges for students, faculty and staff.

Free WIFI is available for notebooks.

There are also desktop computers with internet access.

If you have any questions concerning books/journals in the library or loan service, the librarian Anja Engelke will be happy to support you.

The email is [bibliothek@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:bibliothek@fh-hermannsburg.de)

### (c) **Chapel Services**

Services are held in the chapel on the campus on weekdays during the semester. The style and the time of worship varies and you are invited to contribute to the service by preaching or by enriching the liturgy. Your attendance and participation will be appreciated, but are not required. Please feel free to talk to Prof. Erna Zonne-Gätjens for further information. You find the schedule of the services at the pin-board in the canteen.

#### (d) **Student Organisation and Student Representatives**

Before end of October the FIT students elect a representative of each study programme. The representatives of all programmes build the Students' Council ("Studierendenrat"). Two representatives take part in the meetings of the "Fachhochschulkonferenz" (FHK), a committee which decides about affairs of fundamental importance to the FIT. The representatives have to be students enlisted at the FIT (one from each B.A. programme). One representative of the MA students takes part in the FHK without voting right.

#### (e) **Students' Residences**

Students residing at FIT will have individual rooms. The rooms in the students' residences are fully furnished (bed, bedding, desk, desk lamp, shelf, wardrobe, chair, easy chair). A small corridor outside provides additional space for e.g. shoes and jackets.



Photo: Sonja Richter

Sanitary facilities are shared and available on each floor. Each floor also provides a common room and a common kitchen.

For details, please see the contracts.

A security deposit for the room, amounting to 400.00 Euro, needs to be paid ahead of arrival. The amount will be reimbursed to you after your removal from the register of students. In addition a fee for the keys of EUR 50.00 is to be paid upon arrival. This also applies to students who are not living on campus but are making use of the library service.

For detailed information about family accommodation in Hermansburg, please contact Ms. Rückert [d.rueckert@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:d.rueckert@fh-hermannsburg.de) or Mr. Fiebig [e.fiebig@fh-hermannsburg.de](mailto:e.fiebig@fh-hermannsburg.de).

Internet is accessible in the residences through hotspots. A maximum fee of Euro 7.00 per month applies. Internet access free of charge is provided in the lecture hall, the library and in the computer lab which can be accessed 24/7.

## **Campus**

Access to all buildings including library and computer room is possible 24/7 with keys given to the student at check-in.

Laundry facilities are available next to the library building:

- 2 washers and 1 dryer are provided
- Students are expected to buy their own washing powder

Each student who is living on campus will have his/her own mail box in the lecture building.

## **Requirements & Recommendations**

Keys:

Please make sure that you always lock your door and close the windows when you leave buildings and rooms on campus after opening hours.

Duration of your stay:

Please keep us informed about your plans. If you travel during vacation we need to know how we can contact you. You are expected to be back at the beginning of the next semester.

### **(f) Communication/Computer/Internet Availability**

#### **Internet/Computers**

The FIT provides students with 24/7 access to seven computers. These computers are internet-connected and are located in the main lecture hall.

#### **Telephone**

The phones on all floors in the students' residence can be used for internal calls (within the FIT and the ELM) free of charge. A list of internal extensions is available.

#### **Private phone calls outside and abroad**

For calls within Germany dial the regional code (e.g. 0511 for Hanover) followed by the number of the person you wish to call. If you phone abroad, please dial the country code (e. g. 0046 for Sweden), the regional code (skip the "0" in the beginning) and the recipient's number.

There is a computer room which students may use. You have the chance to phone via Skype to many countries. Rates may be dictated by country called.

## **Emergency Calls**

In case of an emergency dial "112". The fire station and police will be notified.

## **(g) Studying with Disabilities**

The FIT has an equal-opportunity policy that is inclusive of students living and studying with disabilities. Special allowances can be made concerning e.g. the mode of examination or the timeframe allocated to perform a certain task.

Most areas on campus are accessible to wheelchair-users, and the FIT offers wheelchair-users an apartment that provides extra space e.g. in the bathroom and the main room. The library and the lecture halls as well as the auditorium are wheelchair-accessible as is the canteen and the admin building.

The lecture building is equipped with a toilet that accommodates the needs of wheelchair-users.

## **(h) Extra-Curricular Activities Offered by FIT**

FIT offers excursions and study tours on a regular basis. Some of the excursions offered form part of the B.A. Programme, such as excursions to Berlin and Hamburg to visit social and diaconal service providers. These smaller excursions that form part of the curriculum are free of charge for the students. Other larger study tours e.g. to Israel and Palestine or to Istanbul are subject to a fee to be paid by the students themselves and are not compulsory. A small contribution is currently offered by the FIT to reduce the total costs payable by the students for these longer study tours.

Other extra-curricular activities offered by the FIT include an orientation week prior to the beginning of each winter semester for new incoming students for the Bachelor Programs and the Master Course. This week includes excursions as well as fun- and leisure activities conducive to group formation. Also, Movie nights are organized a couple of times during the semester by the FIT, with snacks and soft-drinks provided. In addition, some events are organized by the students themselves.

## **(i) Counselling and student advice**

If you need further counselling – also in psychological or legal issues – please contact Birgit Flader. She can help you with helpful institutions or authorities.

## **(j) Choir**

The FIT Choir meets during the lecture time each Thursday in the Auditorium in the Lecture Building. All students and interested guests are warm welcome!

## 5. LIFE IN HERMANNSBURG & SURROUNDING AREAS

### (a) Places of Worship

#### St. Peter-Paul-Kirche:

The St. Peter-Paul-Kirche is part of the Ev.-luth. Church of Hanover. It is based in Billingsstraße. Services are held in German, they usually start Sundays at 10.00 a.m. More information:

[www.peter-paul-hermannsburg.de](http://www.peter-paul-hermannsburg.de)

#### Große Kreuzkirche:

The Große Kreuzkirche is part of the Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany. It is based in Georgstraße. Services are held on Sundays and start at 9:30. More information: [www.grossekreuz.de](http://www.grossekreuz.de)

#### Kleine Kreuzkirche:

The Kleine Kreuzkirche is also part of the Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany. It is based in Lotharstraße. Services (partly bilingual German-English) are held on Sundays and usually start at 9:30. More information:

[www.kleinekreuzkirche.de](http://www.kleinekreuzkirche.de)

#### Auferstehungskirche:

The Catholic Auferstehungskirche is based in Hustedtstraße near the cemetery. It is part of the Catholic congregation Sühnekirche in Bergen. Holy masses are held on Sundays and Thursdays at 18:00 and on Tuesdays at 9:00. More information:

[www.suehnekirche-bergen.de](http://www.suehnekirche-bergen.de)

### (b) Shops and Grocery Stores

- **Netto** (Lotharstrasse 40) is the closest shop to the FIT premises; it is just a 5 minutes walk to. It is a discounter and prices are low.
- **Penny** (Celler Straße 14) is another discounter where prices are low. Sometimes it makes sense to compare them with Netto.
- **Edeka Neukauf Ehlers** (Celler Straße 18) provides good service and good quality (fresh meat and sausages, fresh cheese) at somewhat higher prices.
- **Aldi Nord** (Celler Straße 45) is a bit far to walk, but Aldi has a wide range of products (also at times inexpensive computers and other electronics) and it makes sense to check the website [www.aldi-nord.de](http://www.aldi-nord.de).
- **Euronics** (Celler Straße 58): a very good electroshop.
- **HADI Sonderposten Markt** (Bahnhofstraße 2), discounter for stationary, household items, decoration and more.
- **Rossmann** (Am Markt 1) is a Drugstore chain, but they also sell food, wine and other items.



- **Buchhandlung im Ludwig-Harms-Haus** (Harmsstraße 2): a book store offering a variety of Christian literature as well as books about the Lüneburg Heath.
- A variety of small shops selling clothes, shoes, toys, stationery etc., most of them located at a walking distance from FIT.

Please note that shops are closed on Sundays.

In addition, regional farmers and grocery producers sell fresh products on the Hermannsburg market place on Friday mornings in front of the Rathaus.

### (c) **Bicycles and Clothes/Second Hand**

Since public transport is limited, a bicycle may be a good investment and there are some second hand bikes available from **Fahrrad Knoop** (Weesen, Wiecheler Weg 1, Tel.: 05052/2441) and **2rad Eimes** (Bahnhofstraße 13, Bergen, Tel.: 05051/8367).

Second hand clothes can be bought on Thursdays in a small charity shop close to the Hermann Billung Elementary School (**CVJM building**, Waldstraße 8).

In the second hand store **Äffchens Stöberladen** (Billingstraße 3) you can find cheap furniture and household items.

Besides, many private people sell used stuff like bikes or furniture at a low price or give it away for free. Offers can be found in the local/regional newspapers and in the internet at "Ebay Kleinanzeigen".

### (d) **Post Office and Travel Agency**

The post office (Celler Straße 1) is located inside "**Findefuchs**", a store selling stationary and toys. Letters are collected/sent away daily at 17:00, parcels at 16:00.

The travel agency **Malys Eck** (Celler Straße 17) sells train, bus and flight tickets. You can also do hotel bookings etc.

### (e) **Health Care**

If you have a health issue, you should consult one of the doctors at the local Health Clinic/Medizinisches Versorgungszentrum (Billingstraße 4; Tel.: 05052 91300). If they are closed at the weekend or at night please call the central number 116117.

There are also several dentists in town.

Pharmacies are located in Gerichtsweg 1 and Billingstraße 6, next to the Medizinisches Versorgungszentrum.

The closest hospital is the Allgemeines Krankenhaus Celle (Siemensplatz 4 in Celle; Tel: 05141 / 720).

## (f) Restaurants and Cafés

- **Café Bacio** (Billingstrasse 12) is one of the students' favorites. They have home-made ice cream, cakes and excellent Tiramisu.
- **La Taverna Ristorante** (Lotharstraße 27): Authentic Italian look and feel. Good quality food at sensible price. Highly recommended.
- **Café-Restaurant Candace**, Ludwig-Harms-Haus (Harmsstraße 2): Named after the first ship which sent out missionaries from Hermannsburg. It is situated in an old farm house and has the typical North German flair. They also have buffets and specials, including international meals.
- **Heidjer Grill** (Georg-Haccius-Straße 2): If you like home-made burgers, sausages and Schnitzels, this is the place to go. It is fast food – but individually prepared and tasty.
- **"Ole Müllern Schön"** (Alte Dorfstraße 6, Müden). The Ole Müllern Schön serves the most amazing cakes and its fame has spread to German television. As a result, it can get very busy in the summer months, so you may need to book in advance even for a coffee! Specialities include Buchweizentorte ("buckwheat gateau") and Blaubeertorte ("bilberry gateau").
- **Zur Alten Fuhrmanns-Schänke** ("The Old Carters' Inn") near Oldendorf in the forest. Traditional, rustic, German restaurant specialising in game - venison, wild boar and Heidschnucke, the local moorland sheep. Not cheap, but great for special occasions.
- **Kaffeergarten Sülze**: a nice garden and good food; sometimes they also have concerts and live music.
- **Hofcafé Winkelhof** (Alte Dorfstraße 12, Müden) serves excellent self-made cakes and organic coffee, tea and ice cream.
- **Rabehof** in Oldendorf is a farm with shop and café. They sell diverse homemade food and cakes. The café is open from 01.05. to 30.09., the shop throughout the year.

## (g) Sports and Recreation

### ***Hermannsburg***

During the semester students arrange a weekly football match on the opposite side of the "Missionsstraße" in the secondary school "Christian-Gymnasium" on Tuesdays 8–10 p.m.

There is also a gym in town (Body & Care) that offers fitness classes and a weight room (Bahnhofstraße 3; Tel.: 05052 911992).

The local sports association TUS Hermannsburg offers a wide range of sports opportunities, free of charge for FIT students: badminton, basketball, fist-ball, soccer, judo, handball, long-distance-running, competitive dancing, tennis, table-tennis and more (Schlesierweg 13, Tel. 05052 3872); more information: [www.tus-hermannsburg.de](http://www.tus-hermannsburg.de)

## **Celle**

**Bowling No 1** (Ludwig-Erhard-Str. 5): This 16 lane bowling centre is capable of catering for both large and small parties and has a large restaurant and bar area.

**Fitness Planet** (Telefunkenstr. 45A): The Gym with the largest training area in Celle.

## **Swimming**

- **Waldschwimmbad Hermannsburg** (Lotharstraße 66): The public indoor swimming pool [Waldschwimmbad](#) in Hermannsburg has basins for adults and children. For opening hours please check <http://waldbad-hermannsburg.jimdo.com>
- **Waldschwimmbad Herrenbrücke** in Faßberg: A heated outdoor pool close to the forest: Six 50-meter lanes, jump system with 1 and 3 meter springboard, large non-swimmer areas with doormats, Kiddie pool, many activities such as beach volleyball, table tennis, basketball, bowling, football. For opening hours please check <https://www.fassberg.de/oeffentliche-einrichtungen/waldschwimmbad-herrenbruecke/>
- **Celler Badeland**, (Just a short walk from the town centre in 77er Straße in Celle), The Badeland is a swimming and wellness centre, a mini waterpark with 7 indoor and outdoor pools, waterslides, sauna, whirlpools and a solarium. There is also a professional medical department, offering massages etc. The complex also has a restaurant for hungry swimmers and an area where customers can just relax away from water. For opening hours please check [www.celler-badeland.de](http://www.celler-badeland.de)

## **Dancing**

- "Inkognito" in Celle is the only discotheque within the next 30 kms. For further information please check [inkognito-celle.de/](http://inkognito-celle.de/)
- Sometimes, "Kaffegarten" in Sülze has party music.

## **Events**

- **Schützenfest**, Hermannsburg, every summer
- **"Heidschnucken" Auction** Müden. Every year, on the second Thursday in July, the moorland sheep (Heidschnucken) auction takes place. The strongest young rams are presented to breeders and spectators and the best animals win prizes. The Heidschnucken rams can be bid for at the accompanying auction.
- **Mill Festival (Mühlenfest)** Müden. On the second Sunday in September a mill festival (Mühlenfest) is held at the old mill in Müden.
- **Hermannsburger Feieraend**  
In August and September local landlords offer barbeque and drinks at the Heimatmuseum (close to Ludwig-Harms-Haus). A meet & greet of all who are interested.

- **Christmas Market Hermannsburg** is organized by local volunteers. Traditionally it takes place at the Rathausplatz on the 2nd Advent weekend. It includes a concert with Rock music on Saturday night. In the past FIT students contributed to the market with a booth where they sold self made international Christmas cookies, which was always great fun for all who participated.
- **Christmas Market**, Celle town centre. Celle town centre's Christmas market is one of the biggest and best in Lower Saxony. Annually, usually from the end of November through towards the end of December (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), over 100 stalls gather together in the beautiful historic town of Celle to sell their wares and celebrate Christmas in true German tradition and style. Here you can buy hand crafted Christmas presents, or simply enjoy typical German food and drink. In Celle you will find Northern Germany's highest Christmas Pyramid. For further information on all German Christmas markets, visit [www.germany-tourism.de](http://www.germany-tourism.de).
- **Wine Market**, Celle town centre. Don't miss this brief festival of wine (mainly German) which takes place annually, in the last week of July. Celle's town centre is full of stalls selling their wares including many local wines, Flammkuchen, cheeses etc and, of course. A festival atmosphere is also created by live music including jazz, folk and piano.
- **Congress-Union** Celle, Congress-Union Celle (Thaerplatz 1). The Congress Union is a fantastic facility in Celle. It offers international shows on a regular basis. For current shows and other information visit the website.

#### (h) **Museums, Parks, Sightseeing** <sup>1)</sup>

##### Around Hermannsburg

- **Berlin Airlift Museum** (Erinnerungsstätte Luftbrücke Berlin), (Approx. 8 km from Müden in the village of Faßberg). A museum commemorating the Berlin Airlift, when West Berlin was saved from the Communist blockade in 1948/49. The museum is located in Faßberg airfield, formerly Royal Air Force Fassberg.
- **Wietzer Berg**, (Signed to the "Lönsstein" about 2 km before Müden just NW (left) of the L240 from Hermannsburg). The Wietzer Berg is a low hill (102 m) with good views over the Heath and the Örtze valley to the south and a hub for numerous walks in the area. At the summit is the Lönsstein, a large "glacial erratic" rock that has been turned into a monument to Hermann Löns, the well-known heath poet. There are various scenic walks from ½ hr to 4 hrs in length and you can also walk into Müden from here.
- There is a **car park and café** by the road at the foot of the gentle rise leading to the monument. You can also park in Müden and take a longer walk from there.
- **Müden Animal Park and Treetop Climbing** (Wild- und Abenteuerpark Müden, Heuweg 23). Two courses of high-rope climbing through the woods. For experts,

there is an alternative course. The animal park is great for young children and very interactive.

- **Bergen-Belsen Memorial** (Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen, Anne-Frank-Platz, Lohheide, 10 minutes from Bergen, just south of the village of Belsen): The infamous Belsen concentration camp, liberated by British forces in 1945, is now a memorial site with a comprehensive visitor centre. Today, only the sombre mounds of mass graves remain along with various monuments to those who died; the original camp was destroyed by the British after its survivors had been rescued and, in most cases, temporarily housed in the nearby barracks of Lager Hohne. The suffering of Anne Frank and her diary are worldwide associated with the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen.

<sup>1</sup>The information included in this section is mostly taken from [wikitravel.org/en/Celle](http://wikitravel.org/en/Celle)

## Celle

- **Celle Palace:** The ducal palace, Schloss Celle, whose foundations date to the 13th century, is the oldest building in the town. What started as a castle for the dukes of Lüneburg, fortified with moats and ramparts, was gradually expanded and modified into a mixture of Baroque and Renaissance architecture. In the 19th century the castle was occasionally used by the Hanoverian royal household as a summer residence. Guided tours visit the Renaissance chapel, Baroque theatre, ducal chambers and palace kitchen.
- **Garrison Museum** (Hafenstraße 4): This is a Museum which concentrates on the military history of Celle. The Military history goes back to 1626 and includes the role of the Luftwaffe before and during WW2 and also the British garrison post WW2. There are hundreds of exhibits ranging from weapons and uniforms to signals equipment. The museum has many artifacts from the history of the various units and regiments that have been stationed in Celle.
- **Bomann Museum** (Schlossplatz 7, opposite Celle Castle): Celle's cultural museum and one of the largest and most important museums in Lower Saxony. Numerous displays and reconstructions show how people lived, worked and dressed in the Celle region in centuries past.
- **The French Garden** (Französischer Garten) in Celle: The French Garden in [Celle](#) is a public [park](#) in the south of the historic old town or Altstadt. On both sides of a straight [avenue of lime trees](#) forming its east-west axis are flowerbeds, lawns, copses and a pond with a fountain. Its current appearance is no longer that of a true [French Garden](#), but rather that of an [English Garden](#). Laid out towards the end of the 17th century as a [baroque](#) courtyard and leisure garden by French gardeners, Perronet and Dahuron, the gardens were given their present shape in the mid-19th century based on plans by the inspector of gardens, Schaumburg.
- **Lower Saxon Stud Farm** (Spoerckenstrasse 10): At this world famous Stud Farm, Hanoverian stallions are kept, schooled and sold for thousands of euros to buyers all over the world. Traditionally, on the last 2 weekends of September and the first weekend of October, the annual 'parade' (Celler Hengstparade) takes place. All stallions are presented in hand, under harness or under saddle. It is celebration of horses and a treat to watch - even for non-riders.

## Other Attractions in the Area

- **Explore the Heath.** There are plenty of easy walking trails in the area with good car parking facilities. Good starting points for walks are the car parks at Overhaverbeek and Niederhaverbeek northwest of Bispingen. From there you can walk or catch a horse and coach ride to the Heath's highest hill, the Wilseder Berg - all 169 metres of it! From here there is a great panorama of the surrounding area. On clear days you can see as far as Hamburg. Beware, it is often teeming with tourists on summer weekends! But there are many other quieter walks all over the area as well as long distance walks like the Freudenthalweg and Hermann-Billung-Weg that are over 100 kilometres long. Many of the trails are suitable for cyclists and Nordic walkers too. There are cycle paths beside many of the roads.  
Closer to Hermannsburg there are also popular heath trails starting e.g. at the parking lot Misselhorner Heide.
- **Heide Park**, in Soltau. The biggest amusement park in Northern Germany. Expensive, but fun for families and groups alike.
- **Serengeti Park**, south of Bad Fallingb. The largest safari park in Europe, the Serengeti Park is a top attraction for visitors to the area. It features 4 zones: Animal World, an open safari park which can be toured by car or bus; Water World, with a mix of water rides, whitewater rafting, pedal boats and more, as well as lakes of waterfowl; Monkey World, with safari tours through the terrain, and Leisure World, a fairground and leisure complex with high rope course, baby park and play parks for children. Pricy, but a great day out for families.
- **Walsrode World Bird Park** (Weltvogelpark), in Walsrode. The world's largest bird park and one of the top ten zoos in the world for numbers of species, this park is a must for families and quite reasonably priced as one of the area's major attractions.
- **International Wind- and Watermill Museum** (Wind- und Wassermühlen-Museum) in Gifhorn.
- Hankensbüttel **Otter Centre**, a great place to relax and enjoy wildlife. As well as otters, there are polecats, minks, otter hounds, badgers and much more besides. Well worth a detour.
- **Snow Dome** Bispingen, in Bispingen. Go skiing all year round at this superb indoor ski slope equipped with a 300 metre slope and snowboard park served by a six-seater chairlift. Children's slope. Ski and snowboard hire. Shop. Bavarian-style restaurant. Equally good for warming up before a skiing holiday or just for a fun day out.
- **Holstein Switzerland** (Holsteinische Schweiz) just an hour north of Hamburg is an expansive Lake District nestling like a hidden jewel amongst the hills and fields of Holstein. Take a cruise on Lake Plön or a tour around Eutin Castle. Hire a bicycle and just explore the lakes.
- **Lüneburg** – a beautiful town with a University and full of picturesque historic buildings, nice restaurants, bars and cafés.

- **Hamburg** – Tour Germany's biggest port by boat, stroll round the Alster Lakes, visit the Warehouse Quarter (Speicherstadt) and HafenCity, where an industrial wasteland has been converted into a posh shopping district. Or check out the Hamburger Kunsthalle, one of Germany's biggest art museums.
- **Bremen** – Visit the Marktplatz, one of the most beautiful market squares in Germany, walk down the tiny lane of Böttcherstraße, educate yourself at the Overseas Museum or take a tour of the port by boat.
- **Hanover** – Shop in the capital of Lower Saxony. Follow the red line guided tour around all the important sites - you can even get a recorded commentary in English. Enjoy the wildlife at Hanover Zoo. And don't forget to visit the amazing Herrenhausen Gardens.
- **Harz Mountains** – if you want a change of scenery, head for the Harz with its breathtaking ravines, rocky crags, castles and spruce-covered slopes. Mining museums recall the days when the wealth of the Kingdom of Hanover was underpinned by silver mined in these hills. Go canoeing, mountain biking, climbing or just chill out with a beer by a mountain lake or enjoy a coffee in a former mining village.

## 6. TRAVELLING TO FIT

### (a) **By Air**

The nearest airport is [Hanover](#) which is a main international airport with regular flights from all over the world with services to most European capitals and major cities. The airport is situated in Langenhagen which is 11 kilometres to the north of Hanover centre and has easy access to the autobahn. It is the ninth largest airport in Germany and is one of very few German airports which are open 24 hours a day, although there are very few flights between 11pm and 4am. Hermannsburg is approximately 70 kilometres from Hanover airport with an estimated driving time of 60 minutes. Hanover airport is also accessible by a combination of trains, buses and taxis.

There is also an international airport in [Bremen](#) which has many of the budget airlines operating regular flights to most European countries. The airport is located close to the city centre and there is a tram which departs every 5 to 10 minutes (on Sunday evenings up to 30 min) to Bremen city centre. The journey takes 11 minutes. This airport is also close to the autobahn links but is 125 kilometres and about a 90-minute journey to Hermannsburg.

[Hamburg](#) international airport is approximately 8 kilometres north of the city centre and is the fifth busiest airport in Germany. In 2009 extensive refurbishment improved road access and connections to the Hamburg S-Bahn system which will connect with the main Bahnhof in Hamburg city centre. Although this airport is about 115 kilometres away from Hermannsburg and will take approximately 90 minutes by car, it is still a viable alternative to Hanover and Bremen airports.

## **(b) By Train and Bus**

The nearest railway station is in Unterlüß, a 15 minute drive from Hermannsburg. From Unterlüß, every hour a train (Metronom) runs to Uelzen, Celle, Hanover and Göttingen. Please check the website of "Deutsche Bahn" for connections, services and offers: [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de).

During the week there are regular bus transfers from Hermannsburg to Unterlüß, see [www.cebus-celle.de/fileadmin/downloads/linien/260.pdf](http://www.cebus-celle.de/fileadmin/downloads/linien/260.pdf). The closest bus stop from the FIT is "Sägenförth," a 5 minute walk, near the Netto market. Some lines also stop at Christian-Gymnasium/FIT, right in front of the Campus at Missionsstraße.

You can also use buses to Bergen and Celle. Services operate Monday through Friday. There are very few connections on weekends. For connections check [www.cebus-celle.de](http://www.cebus-celle.de).

Celle Bahnhof runs a variety of localised trains and is also a stop for the IC/ICE trains running on the Hamburg to Hanover route. Trains to Hanover and Hamburg stop hourly at the station as do individual IC trains during busy periods. Metronom trains link Celle to Uelzen, Hanover and Göttingen as part of the regional transport network. Celle is also the terminus for routes S6 and S7 of the Hanover S-Bahn network. Links to the east and west are not part of the structured bahnhof system so Hanover is the better option for travelling more extensively around the area.

## **(c) By Car**

Hermannsburg is 28 kilometres from the nearest autobahn but is located near the main B3 route which runs from north to south. Access from Hanover centre would be via the A37 which connects to the B3 in a north-easterly direction. The journey is ca. 60 kilometres and will take approximately 60 minutes.

Travelling from the north (Hamburg) is via the route A7; the junction to the south-east of Soltau leads directly onto the B3. Follow it until you reach Bergen and then turn left to Hermannsburg.



## 7. INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### (a) **Health Insurance and Liability insurance**

Please ensure that you are covered by a valid health and a liability insurance during your studies in Germany.

Students from EU countries need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Students from non-EU countries have to be covered by a German health insurance company while studying in Germany. You have to be covered prior to enrolment. A travel insurance will not be sufficient.

International Students younger than 30 years of age better choose a statutory health insurance company. The fees are equal for all state health insurance companies (about 80.00 EUR per month). If you are covered by state health insurance your family members are included in the price you pay. Private health insurance companies take charges for each person separately. Please also note that the coverage offered by the state health insurances is more comprehensive than the services offered by EDUCARE.

Students who are 30 years of age and older can also contract a state health insurance, but at a rate of about 150.00 Euro monthly and only if their income does not exceed 875.00 Euro per month.

Students who choose a private health insurance may take for example "L"-premium coverage from EDUCARE 24 (the payment depends on your age). This health insurance also includes the liability insurance. For more information check their website: ([www.educare24.com/leistungen/ueberblick.html](http://www.educare24.com/leistungen/ueberblick.html))

Please note that you can only apply for "L"-premium coverage from EDUCARE 24 up to November 1st (one month after start of the winter semester).

Information about liability insurances are provided in German: <http://www.studi-versicherungen.de/haftpflichtversicherung-student/#1342183294/tariff/PHV/tarifliste>.

An overview about the German Health Care System and more helpful information about the health insurance you will find under: <http://www.germanyhis.com/> and <https://www.1averbraucherportal.de/versicherung/krankenversicherung/en>

### (b) **Residence address:**

Your residential address (= postal address) is:

Your name -----

Fachhochschule für Interkulturelle Theologie Hermannsburg

Missionsstr. 3-5

29320 Südheide

Germany

**(c) Student Programme for Non-EU Students (from Africa, Asia and Latin America)**

STUBE-Niedersachsen is a student programme for students from Africa, Asia and Latin America. STUBE is a development-oriented education programme and offers seminars, workshops and other activities related to development issues.

STUBE seminars and activities take place mainly during weekends. They supplement the professional university studies with issues related to social, economic and cultural situations in the students' home country.

The STUBE program is practice-oriented, interdisciplinary and intercultural.

With STUBE foreign students will

- participate in weekend seminars, workshops and other activities
- get information on important development related themes/issues
- discuss and exchange knowledge and experiences with other students from Africa, Asia and Latin America
- receive support for a study-related internship or research in their home-country
- exchange experiences with other students concerning studying in Germany
- build up networks and contacts
- get in contact with companies, political institutions and civil society organisations
- participate in organizing seminars with possibility of giving lectures
- meet new and interesting people from all over the world

[www.stube-niedersachsen.de](http://www.stube-niedersachsen.de)

## 8. FINANCIAL HELP AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### (a) **BAFöG**

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research wants all young people to be able to pursue qualifications that suit their talents and interests, regardless of their background. Therefore national students and students with a permanent residence permit who qualify can apply for BAFöG (German Federal Training Assistance Act) to cover the costs for their studies according to the Federal Education Assistance Act. Recently some changes have been made to increase the number of people eligible for support and raise the rates of funding. For details please check

[www.bmbf.de/en/892.php](http://www.bmbf.de/en/892.php)

### (b) **Scholarships**

(Please check also <https://www.fh-hermannsburg-eng.landeskirche-hannovers.de/Scholarships>)

#### **ELM-FIT Scholarships**

There are some scholarships available by the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society in Lower Saxony (ELM) in cooperation with FIT. If you want to apply, please contact Ms Flader for further details.

#### **Deutschland Stipendium**

The University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology Hermannsburg (FIT) awards the scholarship "Deutschlandstipendium". The Deutschlandstipendium is a grant of 300.00 EUR per month and is initially limited for one year (October 2019 to September 2020).

You can find the announcement with detailed information and the application form on the FIT homepage.

#### **Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service**

- **Ecumenical scholarship programme:** The scholarship programme supports National Christian Councils, churches and development-oriented NGOs in developing countries in the up-grading and advanced training of their personnel.

In fulfilment of its mandate the scholarship programme grants scholarships for development-oriented studies in Germany, other European countries and developing countries to graduates with professional experience from developing countries. It provides guidance to scholars and helps them with their integration.

It offers counselling and co-curricular activities, especially seminars on development issues and ethics of science. And it prepares the scholars for reintegration at home.

For further information and deadlines, please contact:

[stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de](mailto:stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de)

- **Theological scholarship programme:** The scholarship programme supports Christian students or graduates of theology worldwide who want to use their knowledge acquired in Germany for their future work in their home churches. For further information please contact: [stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de](mailto:stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de)
- Bread for the World also offers a specific scholarship programme for orthodox students or graduates of theology. For further information, please contact also [stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de](mailto:stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de).

### **DAAD: Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst**

As a rule the application cannot be submitted to DAAD directly, but should be sent to the appropriate authorities in the applicant's home country. The DAAD website [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de) provides further specific information for applicants from your home country including the exact deadlines. The DAAD offices abroad, the German embassies or consulates or your university will give you these pieces of information as well.

Application form: Antrag auf ein Forschungs-/Studienstipendium/ Application for Research Grants and Study Scholarships:

[www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/forschungstipendium\\_en.pdf](http://www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/forschungstipendium_en.pdf)

To receive Country-specific information please check if there is a DAAD office in your country or get in contact with the German Embassy.

The DAAD also provides some information on scholarships of other institutions:

[www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en/](http://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en/)

### **KAAD: Katholischer Akademischer Ausländer-Dienst**

The KAAD (Catholic Academic Exchange Service) offers two different scholarship programmes. For you the Scholarship Programme 1 of KAAD might be worth

considering. For this programme you can apply if you come from a developing or emerging country in Africa, Asia, the Middle East or Latin America, have a university degree and professional experience from your home country, are a Catholic Christian (or generally belong to a Christian denomination). Candidates from other religions can apply if they are proposed by Catholic partners and can prove their commitment to inter-religious dialogue.

Required is an above-average performance in studies and research, the orientation of your studies or research towards permanent reintegration in your home region (otherwise the scholarship is turned into a loan), religious and social commitment (activities) and willingness to inter-religious dialogue and German language skills before starting the studies (KAAD can provide a language course of max. 6 months in Germany).

KAAD is working with focus- and partner countries in your region. There are so-called Partner Committees in these countries and applications are channeled via them. Applications from other countries can be considered only in exceptional cases.

For further information please check [www.kaad.de](http://www.kaad.de)

### **Other Scholarships**

There are more institutions providing scholarships, first of all the 13 "Begabtenförderungswerke" for highly talented students, which are supported by the German government. One of them, Avicenna, supports Muslim students, mainly from EU-countries. For more information (in German) about the different institutions and their scholarships: [www.bmbf.de/de/294.php](http://www.bmbf.de/de/294.php).

### **(c) Education Loans**

Another way of financing your studies could be a bank or student loan.

More information in English about financial aid for students:

[www.hochschulkompass.de/en/degree-programmes/fees-funding.html](http://www.hochschulkompass.de/en/degree-programmes/fees-funding.html)

### **(d) Student Jobs**

For current job opportunities, check the local newspapers (Blickpunkt, Bergener Stadt- und Örtzeanzeiger, Heidekurier) or contact the Arbeitsagentur (Employment Office) in Hermannsburg (Tel. 05052 / 989114). Please note that job opportunities are very limited and that for international students restrictions apply. For most jobs German language skills are required.

**Concluding remark:**

We hope these information are helpful for you and make your stay at FIT pleasant.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the staff member who is responsible for the matter of your request. He or she will try to help you.

Also the FIT Homepage (<https://www.fh-hermannsburg-eng.landeskirche-hannovers.de/>) provides a lot of additional information to the matters mentioned in this information package.

With best wishes

THE FIT TEAM

